

On the Move

March 3, 2007

Posted: 3/02/07

On the Move

- **Mark Clemons** has resigned as pastor of First Church in Goliad.
 - **Roland Contreras** to First Church in Odem as youth pastor.
 - **Jason Craig** to Royal Lane Church in Dallas as minister of youth, missions and education.
 - **Chuck Dooley** to RiverPointe Church in Conroe as interim pastor.
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Parmeleeesâ triple treat: Jesus, music & drama

March 3, 2007

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Parmeleees' triple treat: Jesus, music & drama

By Leann Callaway

Special to the Baptist Standard

KILGORE—Who would have thought God would take a Southern Belle from Dixie and a Yankee from New Jersey, lead them to each other deep in the heart of Texas, and call them to minister around the world?

That's exactly how God worked in the lives of Glenn and Karla Parmelee.

Students' political identities don't fit religious beliefs on social issues

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Students' political identities don't fit religious beliefs on social issues

By Katherine Boyle

Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—American college students' stated political views frequently don't reflect their religious beliefs or attitudes on social issues, a survey by the [Higher Education Research Institute](#) at UCLA revealed.

In 2004 and 2006, students were asked to define their political views as far

left, liberal, middle-of-the-road, conservative or far right. Despite holding traditionally conservative or liberal views, the most popular political label for students was “middle-of-the-road,” chosen by 43 percent of those surveyed in 2006.

TOGETHER: Valley situation leads to new process

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TOGETHER: Valley situation leads to new process

It's good to be a Baptist for many reasons. One of those reasons is we seek to acknowledge our mistakes, fix them and move on.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board has worked with me for more than a year in trying to understand what happened with our church-starting efforts and what needed to be done to fix any problems. Because of the ongoing nature of the investigation and our response to it, I have not spoken much about the details. I wanted to let the process work. Now, I would like to give a brief recap.

When told there were problems in our church-starting efforts in the Valley, I sought to get answers and explanations. I paid attention to a variety of voices on my staff and to pastors and leaders in the Valley. Although there

were differences of opinion expressed, I trusted the words of my staff, as well as the affirmations of several in the Valley, and decided to go forward with our efforts.



Executive Director
BGCT Executive
Board

I did, however, keep my eyes and ears open. I continued to listen and went through another round of visitation and conversation with those in the Valley. I continued to work to resolve the concerns and was assured again that our approach was right.

Consultant calls salvation wholeness, not just a "point- of-sale" transaction

March 3, 2007

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Consultant calls salvation wholeness, not just a 'point-of-sale' transaction

By **Tony Cartledge**

North Carolina Biblical Recorder

CONOVER, N.C. (ABP)—Despite decades of tweaking evangelistic methods, scant evidence backs up the claim that many Christians are experiencing true life change, Ron Martoia believes.

Perhaps that failure is because Christians in the Western world have been prone to think of salvation as a “point-of-sale” transaction that focuses on getting to heaven instead of appreciating that Jesus came to fulfill the Old Testament promise of “shalom,” a concept that suggests wholeness, wellness and peace, explained Martoia, a ministry consultant who works with churches.

Ron Martoia

Abolitionist Wilberforce’s life a model for modern Christians, historian says

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Abolitionist Wilberforce's life a model for modern Christians, historian says

By **Hannah Elliott**

Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Even though he lived in England two centuries ago, the life and work of [William Wilberforce](#) remain important examples for modern-day evangelicals, according to the lead historical consultant for a feature film chronicling the famous abolitionist's life.

Kevin Belmonte, a leading scholar on Wilberforce's life and work spoke in a chapel address and a symposium at Dallas Baptist University. The Wilberforce biopic, [Amazing Grace](#), debuted in American theaters Feb. 23.

CYBERCOLUMN by John Duncan: Awaiting spring

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CYBER COLUMN: Awaiting spring

By **John Duncan**

I'm sitting here under the old oak tree, awaiting spring. The sun shines today. Birds sing the glory. And life like a river flows in the joy of ministry.

I mention the river in the flow of ministry because the life of a pastor is a life on the move, full of twists and turns, ups and downs, power-packed with the pleasant and the unpleasant. Eugene Peterson was once asked what he liked about the church, and he replied, "The mess." C.S. Lewis says that in a Christian society there are to be "no passengers or parasites," meaning, of course, that in the church people are Christ-followers, pilgrims on the journey, but they are not to sit idly by and watch like mere passengers but to serve and act, and, that, they are not parasites that destroy the body but "little Christs" (C.S. Lewis) who build up Christ's body. In my years as a pastor, I have seen many passengers and parasites in the church.

John Duncan

Cartoon

March 3, 2007

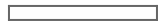
Posted: 3/02/07

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Texas Tidbits

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Texas Tidbits

UMHB to 'doctor' teachers. The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor will launch its first doctoral program this fall, when it accepts candidates for the doctor of education degree. The new program, approved unanimously by the university trustees, is pending accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. "Moving this university into the realm of doctoral programs has been the desire of many people for many years, and we are pleased to be able to provide this next level of higher education," university President Jerry Bawcom said. The venture has been named the Leadership in Educational Administration—LEAD—program. In conjunction with the new degree, the university will establish the Center for Leadership, Evaluation, Alignment and Research—CLEAR—to facilitate and support student and faculty research.



Tony Celelli

School of Christian Studies installs Celelli. The South Texas School of Christian Studies installed Tony Celelli as the fourth president in its 30-year history Feb. 1. The school is an independent campus with academic ties to Hardin-Simmons University's Logsdon Seminary, Howard Payne University, Texas A&M University and Del Mar College. The school offers certificate programs as well as undergraduate and graduate degrees in Christian studies. Celelli emphasized the importance of the school's "cooperative spirit" to work through partnerships: "Using our resources in concert with Howard Payne University and Logsdon Seminary, we educate leaders from various religious traditions and ethnicities. In our diversity of relationships, the unity of the gospel prevails." Celelli, who succeeded Linn Self, earned a master of divinity degree through the school and was an adjunct professor and member of the board of trustees before becoming president. He has been a minister more than 18 years and most recently served on the staff of Second Baptist Church in Corpus Christi.

Storylist for 3/05/07 issue

March 3, 2007

Storylist for week of 3/05/07

TAKE ME TO: [Top Story](#) | [Texas](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Baptists](#) | [Faith & Culture](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Departments](#) | [Bible Study](#)



- [Archaeologists, evangelicals critique "Tomb" documentary](#)
- [Abolitionist Wilberforce's life a model for modern Christians, historian says](#)
- [Friends bring friends to Jesus](#)
- [SBC leaders acknowledge Baptist bloggers here to stay](#)
- [Page cautiously optimistic about Southern Baptists](#)
- [Will associations, conventions become relics?](#)
- [Tolerance, not uniformity, needed to keep SBC together](#)



- [Continuous ministry key to transforming neighborhood](#)



- [African Children's Choir symbolizes hope for future](#)
- [Parmelee's triple treat: Jesus, music & drama](#)

- [On the Move](#)
- [Around the State](#)
- [Texas Tidbits](#)

Ethics Without Borders Conference coverage

- [Politics plays role in hunger elimination, Beckmann says](#)
- ["Clash of civilizations' view too simplistic, expert says](#)
- [Networked church key to ministering in 21st century](#)
- [Development key in Texas Baptist fight against world hunger](#)
- [Christian Churches Together seeks united front against poverty](#)
- [Human traffickingâexotic and close to home](#)
- ✖
- [Mainstream Baptists cite freedom as Baptist hallmark](#)
- [Consultant calls salvation wholeness, not just a "point-of-sale' transaction](#)
- [Baptist Briefs](#)
- ✖
- [Christians use movie to spotlight modern-day human trafficking](#)
- [Author seeks to connect the dots between sex and God](#)
- [Students' political identities don't fit religious beliefs on social issues](#)
- [Faith Digest](#)



- [Around the State](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Cartoon](#)



- [EDITORIAL: Two issues resolved, 3rd straight ahead](#)
- [DOWN HOME: What's better than Wheel O'Meals?](#)
- [TOGETHER: Valley situation leads to new process](#)
- [2nd Opinion: Peril of the church on the defensive](#)
- [RIGHT or WRONG? How to leave](#)
- [Texas Baptist Forum](#)
- [CYBERCOLUMN by John Duncan: Awaiting spring](#)



- [BaptistWay Bible Series for March 4: Stay focused on Jesus](#)
- [Bible Studies for Life Series for March 4: Jesus forgives the sin of his people](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for March 4: Life's difficulties are faith's fuel](#)
- [BaptistWay Bible Series for March 11: Christians are empowered to minister](#)

- [Bible Studies for Life Series for March 11: Jesus opens our eyes](#)
- [Explore the Bible Series for March 11: Pursue godliness with whole-heartedness](#)

Previously Posted

- [Texas Baptists aid Missouri families](#)
- [Baptists' post-Katrina efforts in Louisiana still under way](#)
- [If heaven is filled with music, Larner arrived early](#)
- [ETBU international students offer global perspective](#)
- [Texas Acteen selected for national panel](#)
- ['From the Dust' takes music behind bars](#)
- [Sweet tells Truett conference God is 'defragging and rebooting' church](#)
- [Did the IMB 'investigate' charges? Burleson, president say no](#)
- [Identity conference questions SBC's direction](#)
- [Gonzales touts religious-freedom initiative; others question Bush record](#)
- [CBF council reports declining revenues, adopts new budget](#)
- [Covenant most important Baptist event since Civil War, Allen says](#)
- [BGCT takes decisive action to prevent future abuses](#)
- [Board clarifies its responsibilities, messengers' rights](#)

- [See complete list of articles from our 2/19/ 2007 issue here.](#)
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RIGHT or WRONG? How to leave

March 3, 2007

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RIGHT or WRONG? How to leave

How should a pastor or other staff person relate to a search committee and terminate a relationship with their church? What ethical guidelines should shape such a situation?

As anyone associated with a Baptist church has experienced, the comings and goings of church staff members always are trying times. Since Baptists celebrate the autonomy of the local church, staffing churches comes down to decisions and actions of individuals, committees and congregations. In such a situation, any event affecting changes in congregational leadership always will be scrutinized and questioned by others and must be guided by ethical principles.

[Previous Columns](#)

Texas Baptists aid Missouri families

March 3, 2007

Updated: 3/02/07

Texas Baptists aid Missouri families

By Barbara Bedrick

Texas Baptist Communications

MOUNT VERNON, Mo.—A 21-person Texas Baptist Men team is providing relief in southwestern Missouri, where President Bush has declared a disaster area.

For the fourth time in less than two months, Texas Baptists are helping families across the Midwest recover from what Missouri officials are calling the worst winter storm in 50 years. It pounded several states and claimed at least 90 lives.